



## CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

September 8, 2000

### **H.R. 4790** **Hunting Heritage Protection Act**

*As ordered reported by the House Committee on Resources on July 26, 2000*

H.R. 4790 would require federal land management agencies to promote and enhance recreational hunting on federal lands. Assuming appropriation of the necessary amounts, CBO estimates that implementing the bill would cost the federal government \$2.5 million over the 2001-2005 period. H.R. 4790 would not affect direct spending or receipts; therefore, pay-as-you-go procedures would not apply. The bill contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

H.R. 4790 would establish a new federal policy that, to the extent practicable, there should be no net loss of public lands open for hunting. In complying with this policy, the land management agencies would report to the Congress each year on areas that they have closed or opened to hunting.

Section 4 of the bill would establish the National Recreational Hunting Coordination Council. The 11-member council would develop a plan to promote recreational hunting and wildlife conservation, including recommendations to federal agencies on short-term and long-term actions to restore wildlife habitat and enhance hunting opportunities on public lands. For this purpose, the bill would authorize the appropriation of \$250,000 for each of fiscal years 2001 through 2003.

CBO estimates that it would cost \$750,000 to implement H.R. 4790 in fiscal year 2001, including \$250,000 for council activities and \$500,000 to establish a database on federal lands open to hunting. After the council's authority expires in 2003, we estimate federal agencies would continue to spend about \$300,000 a year to maintain the database and to report to the Congress. This estimate is based on information provided by the land management agencies in the Department of the Interior, the Department of Defense, and the Department of Agriculture.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Deborah Reis. The estimate was approved by Peter H. Fontaine, Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis.